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WOMEN'S SOCCER

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Women's Soccer Advances To NCAA Second Round With 3-2 Win Over Lenoir-Rhyne

LENOIR-RHYNE		ARMSTRONG STATE		
2	Final	1	2	T
	LENOIR-RHYNE (13-5-2)	0	2	2
	ARMSTRONG STATE (14-4-2)	2	1	3
		3		



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COLUMBUS, Ga. - Armstrong State University senior captain **Allison Litchfield** converted a penalty kick in the 83rd minute to send the women's soccer team into the second round of the 2016 NCAA DII Women's Soccer Championships with a 3-2 victory over Lenoir-Rhyne University on Friday afternoon at the Walden Soccer Complex in Columbus, Ga.

SCORING SUMMARY	
1st - 9:34	Amanda Green (Armstrong State)
1st - 32:20	Ashley Lewis (Armstrong State)
2nd - 58:42	Kendall Smith (Lenoir-Rhyne)
2nd - 62:15	Sarah Pullman (Lenoir-Rhyne)
2nd - 82:04	Allison Litchfield (Armstrong)

The fourth-seeded Pirates (14-4-2) now advance to face top-seeded Columbus State on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. with a berth into the NCAA Southeast Region championship match on the line. Fifth-seeded Lenoir-Rhyne sees its season come to a close at 13-5-2.

The Pirates scored the first goal of the match in the 10th minute as Armstrong State broke down the right side with junior **Jenny Allen**, who fed senior **Sarah Olin** with a pass to the top of the box. Olin slotted a pass across the top of the box to junior **Amanda Green**, who beat Lenoir-Rhyne goalkeeper Andrea Leano inside the far post for her seventh goal of the season and the 1-0 lead.

Armstrong State doubled that lead in the 33rd minute as a free kick from just past midfield was sent into the box by junior **Michelle Allen**. It bounced once in the box, then caromed off the side of the head of Lenoir-Rhyne defender Helen Ramsey onto the foot of freshman **Ashley Lewis** right in front of goal, and Lewis poked it into the net for her fifth goal of the year and a 2-0 lead at the break. The Pirates held a 5-2 edge in shots at halftime.

Lenoir-Rhyne cut the lead to one in the 59th minute as Kendall Smith brought the ball from the midfield into the right side of the box and shot across her body into the far post side netting for her ninth goal of the year and the 2-1 score.

Just three and a half minutes later, the Bears came up with the equalizer as Smith sent a pass into the box and Sarah Pullman scored from the left side to make the score 2-2.

The Pirates went back in front in the 83rd minute. **Amanda Green** ran onto a bouncing ball in the box and volleyed it towards goal, but Green was fouled by Bears keeper Leano, drawing a yellow card and a penalty kick. Litchfield converted the penalty - her first career goal as a Pirate - to make the score 3-2.

Lenoir-Rhyne had several chances to draw back even in the final seven minutes, but senior **Erica Laurens** made a pair of saves to preserve the win. The Bears outshot the Pirates by an 11-4 margin in the second half and held a 13-9 edge in shots for the match.

"Well, it was definitely a tale of two halves," Armstrong State head coach Eric Faulconer said. "We played extremely well in the first half, getting out to a 2-0 lead, but all credit to Lenoir-Rhyne. They took it to us in the second half and had us on our heels. We dug deep after they tied the match and we were fortunate to advance and play another day.

"Our senior captain **Allison Litchfield** stepped up and converted a late penalty for the game-winner. That was her first career goal, and it couldn't happen to a better person. Winning and advancing is all that matters at this point of the season. We know we have a huge task Sunday against Columbus State, but we are excited about the opportunity."

It was the third time in school history that the Pirates and the Bears had met in the NCAA Championships, with both previous meetings coming in the Southeast Region final. The first meeting was a 1-0 loss to Lenoir-Rhyne in 2010, the second was a 1-0 win in 2011 as the Pirates would eventually advance to the national semifinals.

Leano made seven saves in net for Lenoir-Rhyne, while Laurens made five saves in net for the Pirates. The Bears were whistled for 16 fouls, compared to nine for the Pirates. Armstrong State was offsides three times on the day and Lenoir-Rhyne was offsides twice.

State)		
GAME LEADERS		
LENOIR-RHYNE		
G: 2 Players (#10, #25) - 1		
A: Kendall Smith - 1		
Sh: Sarah Pullman - 4		
Sv: Andrea Leano - 2		
ARMSTRONG STATE		
G: 3 Players (#13, #14, #18) - 1		
A: Sarah Olin - 1		
Sh: Jenny Allen - 3		
Sv: Erica Laurens - 5		
TEAM STATS		
LENOIR-RHYNE	ARMSTRONG STATE	
13 (7)	Shots (on goal)	9 (5)
2	Saves	5
16	Fouls	9
3	Corner Kicks	2
2	Offsides	3
FULL STATS		



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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